

fear in this New Model, it will pass the House.

This, they say, is grounded upon a Clause in the Reasonings of the Lords at the Conferences about the first Occasional Bill; wherein their Lordships granted, That the Occasional Conformity of *Dissenters* ought to be Suppress'd; only objected against the Circumstantial of the Bill, the Season of putting it in Execution, and the like; all which they will now remove; and having brought the Bill down to the Standard of their Lordships Judgments, it must be allowed a great Instance of the Moderation of the House; That since they cannot prevail with their Lordships, to come over to their Opinion, as to the Particulars, they will come over to their Lordships, and accept the General; if these will not Grant what those Desire, those shall Accept of what these will Grant.

This Contrivance might have had some better Face upon it, if the Intervening Circumstances had not Discovered the Temper and Design of the Party; if their Vehemence in pursuing their Bill, had not Discovered the Bottom of the Design lay deeper, than was at first pretended; if it had not been plain, that the preventing the Growth of Hypocrisie, as these People pretend, was not really the least part of the Design, and the Good of the Church made use of only as a pretence to cover the Pernicious Purposes of a Party, which too much Discovered themselves in the Violence of the Temper, with which they pursued them; Good Ends being seldom prosecuted by Evil Means, Legal Designs, and Moderate Proposals, seldom requiring Dangerous Experiments, Furious, Illegal, and Exotick Methods, to bring them to pass.

The General Design has too much been Discovered by the Violence and Passion of the Contrivers; and if this has occasioned the Nation farther to Enquire into the Reality of the Design, they must thank themselves: 'Tis own'd, if these Mens want of Temper in the Prosperity of their Affairs, had not blown up their Project; if they had not been Blinded by the full Tide of their Expectations, they had obtained too much in that first Essay; but their own want of Policy,

ruin'd the worst and most fatal Design, that ever was laid against the Union of *English Protestants*; and the Curtain being thus Drawn by themselves, the Scenes of Destruction appear, in which the Chambers of Wickedness are Discovered; and these Schemes of Politicks are Exposed, for the World to Laugh at.

Here it plainly appears, the Good of the Church, is the Cry at the Gate; but within stand the Thousands of Gaping Harpies, of all, and of no Religion; who snatching at the Places, the Salaries, and Perquisites attending this Bill, lay Starv'd with Expectation, Hungry and Disappointed, and Raving at the Loss of that Bill.

Now, had the Design been really the preventing the Occasional Conformity of *Dissenters*, why, Gentlemen, it would most significantly have appeared, if instead of a Bill to Thrust them farther from you, and shut them out, you had been pleased to have offered some Remedies to the General Evil, and Opened the Arms and the Doors of the Church, to have first received all those that could upon reasonable *Protestant* Conditions, have come wholly in.

First, To shut Men out, and then to say, they won't come in, is such Bantering God Almighty and your Brethren, that 'tis no Wonder, Gentlemen, these Dealings make Men more afraid of your Design; for it can never be thought that you who Complain of the Dissenting, the Schism, the Faction of the People, can pretend to wish the Healing it, by making the Breach wider, and shutting out those that would come in.

To say this Bill is for the preventing Hypocrisie, is it self such a piece of Hypocrisie, that not the House of Lords only, but the Meanest Plowman in the Nation, sees thro', and Laughs at; and therefore 'tis not enough to say, the Occasional Conformity of *Dissenters*, is not justifiable — Why do you not Cure the Evil, by giving them room to make that total, which they Declare their willingness to, by Partial and Occasional Compliance with.

To say, the *Dissenters* will not Comply totally, tho' Overtures and Advances to that purpose were made, is to Cover the Cheat yet farther, and make Falsties and Forgery

assist

assist the Design ; for 'tis plain, whatever Mr. *Rebearsal*, *Messieurs Memorial*, or *Monfieur Regale* and *Pontificate* have advanced to the contrary, there never has been any Abatement of Ceremonies, or Indifferent Things, offered them yet.

Now this seems so just a Thing, that I cannot but think no Reasonable Man will reject it : First, Gentlemen, open the Doors of the Church, and make these Offers ; make all those Advances which Charity, Temper, and Religion Demand of you, and which, upon a fair Debate, may be proved reasonable ; and then if the *Dissenters* shew themselves Refractory, and Ill-natur'd, if they appear Obstinate, or are Confuted in their Reasonings ; if they can neither Defend their Dissenting, nor yet shew themselves Enclin'd to Comply with you, there may be some pretence of Contumacy, and they may be call'd obstinate ; but to say they are not to be reconciled, and yet offer them nothing, is such a piece of Drollery, that it will never go down with the Meanest Understandings in the Nation.

From hence it will appear, that all the Condescensions in a New Bill, all the Curtailing it, and bringing it down to the first Standard, which the Lords would have past, will now, if Mens Eyes are opened, as I think they are, be Insignificant ; nor will it be any Derogation, or Detraction, to say of the Lords, That had their Lordships had an Equal Prospect of the Design at that first Session, when had these Gentlemen watch'd their Opportunity, they had carried their Point ; their Lordships would not have gone so far as they did.

These People therefore may sit down, and Reproach themselves if they please, with their own Folly, and reflect on that Verse of a Foreign Poet,

*If Knaves were never Fools, they'd soon
Blow up the State.*

Dyer of Poland, Page ...

Nor will the Argument *ad hominem*, be now of any force ; their Lordships were then of this Opinion, or Conceded thus far then ; therefore we cannot doubt but they will be so now ; for their Lordships have great rea-

son to say they are better Inform'd since, and see farther into the Design.

Those that Tax the Lords with a want of *Due Care of the Church*, will with much more reason be chargeable with want of Reason, as well as Manners ; and may very reasonably be thus Answer'd ; That a due Care of the Church, must be allow'd to consist rather in bringing *Dissenters* into the Communion of the Church, than in foreclosing both them and their Posterity, and shutting the Door against them ; blocking it up with Ceremonies, Trifles, and Things own'd to be Indifferent, which they never could Defend in Practice, much less can they defend the Imposing them as Terms of Communion, and which, unless Complied with, the Willing Enclining *Dissenter*, is Effectually shut out and Rejected.

If therefore there is nothing in your Design, Gentlemen, but the Safety and Security of the Church, the most Effectual Method to secure the Church, must certainly be, to make those you call her Enemies, become her Friends ; to receive all these Gentlemen, that on Occasion can Conform, into a Total Union and Conformity ; so making them a part of your-selves, joyn'd in the Union of Interest, as well as Profession ; and the Breach being thus closed, the Enmity would cease of Course, and the Cry of the Churches Danger, would fall of it self.

This I Conceive to be so plain, that till it is offered at, all the Pretensions for an Occasional Bill, will be found Vain and Empty ; and that of bringing it down to the Test of the Lords former Concessions, will rather appear to be a True Demonstration of the Projected Scheme, than any thing else, and of the Parties being willing to play at small Game, rather than stand out.

If then a Proposal never so Specious in it self, covers a Plot against Religion, against the Publick Peace, and against the Settlement of the Church and State, it ought to be Rejected for the Evil of its Meaning, and that which may be better justified at another Occasion, becomes Unreasonable and Improper, and ought to be Rejected.

I have forbore the farther Enlarging on this Subject, having a Design to lay it before those whom it may more particularly Concern ;

cern; and tho' some People are pleased to Charge this Paper with meddling in what it does not Understand, I shall be glad the Man that has more Zeal, and Honest Desire for the Publick Peace, *as he thinks he has more Learning*, would go on to do all the Good he can, and at the same time Endeavour to hinder no Body else.

As for his Law-Latin, his *Fure Diabolico*, his calling Crown'd Heads, and Legally Elected Princes, Scoundrel Names, and the like, I say nothing to it, but this; *So much Learning, so little Manners, fie, fie!*

Those Gentlemen who are solicitous for the Nations Peace, are strangely mistaken, if they cannot joyn in Peace and Temper with those Embark'd with them in the same Good Design; and 'tis a very Unhappy Circumstance to me, and gives too much reason to doubt their Sincerity; which, if I might presume to Advise them, they should do well to Consider.

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